

14th June, 2001.

Do gach Comhalta den mBord

A Chara,

The monthly meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in **The Boardroom, Northern Area Health Board Headquarters, Unit B, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin** on **Thursday, 21st June, 2001 at 5.00pm** . Tea is arranged for 4.30 p.m.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

PRÍOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. Chairpersons Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of Special Board Meeting held on 10th May, 2001 and of the Monthly Board Meeting held on 17th May, 2001. (copies herewith).
 - (a) Matters arising
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report
5. Report from the Joint Committee on Family, Community and Social Affairs – Teenage Parenting, Contemporary Issues
Report No 18/2001 (copy herewith)

6. Report from the National Advisory Group on the Implementation of Children First – Child Protection Notification System Guidance Notes
Report No 19/2001 (copy herewith).
7. Service Report on Immunisation Services and Infection Control, Northern Area Health Board
Report No 20/2001 (copy herewith)
8. Progress Report from Standing Committees
 - (a) Community Services and Continuing Care Committee
 - (b) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee
9. Notices of Motion

8.3 CLLR. SEN. DR. D. FITZPATRICK

“That proper security systems and burglar alarms be put in place where vulnerable people in the care of the Health Board are housed in domestic dwellings as an aid to their security”.

Reply

Our Board provides care in domestic dwellings for persons with intellectual disabilities, mental health patients and children.

Intellectual Disabilities:

Our Board has seven houses in the community providing services for persons with intellectual disabilities. All of these houses with the exception of one are fitted with security alarms. All of the houses are staffed at night.

Mental Health:

Many of the hostels in the community providing services for mental health patients have burglar alarms installed. Some hostels have security at night time (5pm to 7.am) and others have 24-hour nursing and care staff on duty.

Children:

The majority of Residential Children’s Units across our Board’s area have burglar alarms and in some instances the unit is linked directly to the Garda Station.

It is our Board’s policy to install alarms in all new properties and to expedite the installation of the alarms in all properties.

9.1 CLLR. M. O'DONOVAN

“That Officers of the Board seek a meeting with officials of the Housing Department, Fingal Co. Council to examine whether the Northern Area Health Board and Fingal County Council might collaborate in the provision of special accommodation for the elderly at Blanchardstown Village”.

9.2 CLLR. SEN DR DERMOT FITZPATRICK

“That the Northern Area Health Board enter into discussions with the Developers of the Pelletstown Project and also the Planning Officials in Dublin Corporation with the view to having a state of the art Health Centre built on this Development”.

9.3. CLLR. R. SHORTALL

“That the Chief Executive undertake to complete a review of the Social Work Services in this Board area in view of the unacceptably long waiting lists where 686 children are waiting to be assigned social workers; and in view of the vulnerability of many of the children concerned, that a special package of measures be put in place to tackle this urgent problem”.

9.4. CLLR. M. O'DONOVAN

“That the Chief Executive Officer report on progress towards the implementation of the pilot scheme to cut orthodontic waiting lists through the use of private sector orthodontists”.

9.5. CLLR. R. SHORTALL

“That the Chief Executive report on the operation of the Baby Clinics and Child Development Tests at each of our area's Health Centres and report on the staff complement and percentage of babies/children reached and the adequacy of the present provision to ensure satisfactory levels of screening.

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of monthly Board Meeting
of the Northern Area Health Board
held in the Boardroom, NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin**

On Thursday 21st June, 2001, at 5.00pm

Present

Cllr. C. Burke
Ald. I. Callely, T.D.
Cllr. L. Creaven
Mr. M. Cowley
Mr J. Fallon
Cllr Dr D. Fitzpatrick
Cllr. D. Heney
Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr G. McGuire
Cllr D.Murray
Cllr. E. O'Brien
Dr Philip O'Connell
Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Dr James Reilly

In the Chair

Cllr. Anne Devitt

Apologies

Ms. N. Harvey
Mr. L. Tuomey
Dr B. Murphy
Mrs Catherine Quinn

Officers in Attendance

Ms M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr J. Cahill, Asst Chief Executive
Mr J. Lamont, Asst Chief Executive
Mr P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive
Ms L. McGuinness, Director of Finance
Ms N. Byrne, Director of Communications
Mr G. Hanley, Service Operations

Ms. K. Fagan, Secretariat
Ms M. Neville, Secretariat
Mr J. Murphy, Board Secretary

49/2001.

CHAIRPERSONS BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report:

1. Condolences

I am sure members will join with me on expressing sincere sympathy with those whose names have been included on the list of Condolences which has been circulated to Members.

2. Schedule of meetings and visits

A copy of schedule of forthcoming Meetings and Visits has been circulated to Members.

Please note that at the request of the Protocol Committee, two of the visits have been changed to Monday i.e.

Monday 9th July to Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital of Ireland
Castle Ave., Clontarf, Dublin 3.

Monday 23rd July to Beaumont Hospital, Beaumont Road, Dublin 9

3. Annual General Meeting

Members should also note that the Annual General Meeting of our Board is scheduled for Thursday 19th July, 2001, at 5.00 pm, which will be followed by the Monthly Board Meeting.

A Special Board Meeting on Services for Older Persons has been scheduled for Tuesday 24th July at 2.00 pm

50/2001

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY, 2001

On a proposal from Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Burke, the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 10th May, 2001, were agreed.

51/2001

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY, 2001.

On a proposal by Mr Fallon, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, the minutes of Monthly meeting held on 17th May, 2001 were agreed.

52/2001

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

On a proposal by Cllr. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Devitt, it was agreed to answer the questions that had been lodged.

1. Cllr M. O'Donovan

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer if she is aware of a proposal from Dublin Corporation to develop that part of Maypark, Donnycarney immediately adjacent to the Killester Health Centre and will she respond to Dublin Corporation indicating the Authorities plans in relation to the Health Centre".

Reply

I am informed by Dublin Corporation that they propose to develop a housing scheme at Maypark for elderly persons. The Corporation have indicated that they would wish to incorporate the existing Health Centre into the new development, along with services for the residents.

The Board operates a small Health Centre at Killester Avenue providing a range of community-based services. The Centre is a pre-war building of basic construction, and this Board has included proposals for an extension/reconstruction of the facility in its bid for National Development Plan funding. The General Manager will now discuss our accommodation needs with Dublin Corporation with a view to progressing this project.

2. Cllr. M. O'Donovan

"To ask the Chief Executive what the Authority intends to do with Woodville House, Artane in view of the fact that the provisional plan to develop an Art Centre has now been abandoned".

Reply

The former Psychiatric Hostel at Woodville House was given over to the Northside Arts & Cultural Centre Ltd. for development as an arts centre in 1998. The Arts Group have now changed their plans and have handed the premises back to the Board in November, 2000. The house, which is a listed building, is in poor condition at present. The General Manager in Coolock is currently examining the flexibility of developing a respite day centre for persons with physical disability as part of the overall redevelopment of services at Cromcastle Road and the immediate area.

3. Cllr. R. Shortall

"Will the Chief Executive report on the progress to date in providing a long overdue Drug Treatment Centre for Finglas and in view of the many

difficulties associated with the proposed North Road site if she will now arrange for a purpose built unit to be provided at an alternative location such as the grounds of St. Helena's House".

Reply

The site at North Road, Finglas, has been identified as the most appropriate location to provide a drug treatment centre for the Finglas area. Discussions have taken place between our Board, The Finglas Drugs Task Force, the Local Community and current occupiers of the premises, and agreement has been reached on the provision of the service from this location

The premises is currently used as a Sheltered Workshop for persons with disabilities, a Day Care Services for persons with Mental Illness, and a privately owned business concern.

Locations have been identified and are under consideration for the relocation of these existing services, and it is planned that the transfer will take place in early July. The treatment centre will then be opened on a small scale initially to facilitate refurbishment of the premises.

When this facility is fully operational, a total of up to 150 persons will be provided with a service from this location. With other centres at Wellmount and The Barry, a total of 300 treatment places will be available, which will adequately address the needs of those requiring treatment in the Finglas area.

4. Cllr. R. Shortall

"Will the Chief Executive provide an up-date report on the progress to date in opening up all of this Board's Nursing Home beds including details of the additional nurses recruited for this purpose".

Reply:

Our Board has been conscious of the need to maximise the utilisation of services for the elderly in our region. A key element of this is to re-establish the full resource of extended care beds within the shortest possible timeframe. To assist this process our Board in partnership with the acute hospitals in the area formed a Collaborative Working Group in March 2001 to jointly examine the innovative utilisation of resources for older persons in our Board area. The report from this group which is nearing completion deals with a wide-range of short/medium terms solutions and will be presented to our Board on completion.

In the interim in order to fast-track the re-establishment of our full bed resource our Board have put arrangements in place including the recruitment of additional nursing personnel. This process has been facilitated by an intensive overseas recruitment drive which has proved successful in recruiting an additional 82 nurses for older persons services in the short to medium term. The availability of these additional nurses facilitated the re-opening of 37 beds in the system. These beds are located in James Connolly Memorial Hospital,

St. Mary's Hospital and at the community units for the elderly at Cuan Ros, St. Clares and Sena Chara.

Details of beds remaining closed at this time are as follows:

ST. MARY'S	ST CLARE'S	SEAN CHARA	TOTAL
57	6	4	67

The re-opening of these beds will be dealt with on a priority basis within our Board with the objective of having all extended care beds re-activated by the end of October 2001 subject to the continued successful recruitment of nursing personnel.

It should be noted also that since January 2001 an additional 56 contract beds have been commissioned for use within the Northern Area Health Board services which has facilitated additional placements from the acute sector primarily. These beds will continue to provide a valuable resource in providing a continuum of services for older persons in our Board's region.

53/2001

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Medical Card Eligibility for Persons aged 70 or over

I have enclosed with agenda papers for this meeting copy of correspondence from the Department of Health and Children in relation to medical card eligibility for persons aged 70 or over.

Our Board has prepared an application form requesting minimum information required which will be widely circulated and will also be advertised in the local media for easy access.

General Managers and G.P. Unit Doctors are working together to finalise plans for handling applications from 1st July.

I have also put in place a process for an external independent review of the current procedures and processes with a view to simplifying the process and minimising delays in the issuing of medical cards.

Up to date report on Phillipine Nurses

At 30th April 2001 there were 71 Filipino Nurses working in the following locations:

Number	Location	Status
29	James Connolly Memorial Hospital	Working as fully qualified staff nurses
32	St Mary's Hospital	“”

4	Seanchara	“”
4	St Clare’s Home	“”
2	Cuan Ros	“”

The following is the position regarding additional nurses recruited.

No. of Nurses	Location	Status
18 (arrival 25 th May)	16 St Mary’s 2 Seanchara	1 week orientation 6 weeks clinical placement
14 (arrival 15 th June)	James Connolly Memorial Hospital	1 week orientation 6 weeks clinical placement

Both James Connolly Memorial Hospital and St Mary’s Hospital have appointed a Clinical Nurse Manager to co-ordinate the induction programme and clinical placement. Upon arrival the overseas staff are invited to attend a reception which is attended by a number of senior management personnel to welcome them to our Board. The orientation week includes a variety of topics which are felt to be relevant to the staff. Some examples include workshops on the history of the organisation, occupational health, our Board – policies and procedures, infection control, nursing systems and structures, fire safety and a mini tour of Dublin is also included.

Additional personnel on behalf of the three Area Boards have been appointed to assist with sourcing accommodation for the nurses recruited from overseas.

NCHD Vacancies 1st July 2001

Hospital	Complement	Vacancies	Comments
James Connolly Memorial Hospital	72.5	1 SHO A&E 1 SHO Plastic Surgery	SHO in A&E has been advertised and shortlisted. Interviews being held on 15/06/01
St Ita’s Hospital	16.5	1 Senior Registrar	Likely to be filled by 1/7/01
Area 6	15	All vacancies filled	
Area 7	14	All vacancies filled	
St Mary’s Hospital	7	All vacancies filled for 1/07/01	
St Brendans Hospital	9	All vacancies filled	

Working Hours on NCHDs

The report of a National Joint Steering Group on the Working Hours of NCHDs has been accepted by the Government. At the request of the Minister for Health & Children a copy has been given to each NCHD. This process is almost completed in our Board. A National Task Force under the auspices of the HSEA to oversee the implementation of the Working Hours Report will be established shortly.

Recruitment of Social Workers and Child Care Staff.

Our Health Board advertised for Social Workers and Child Care Staff widely in the media (including the U.K.) in March 2001. The total number of applicants was 489. The following is an analysis of progress to date:

POST	NO. OF APPLICANTS	SHORTLISTING	INTERVIEWS
Training Officer for Children First	46	yes	25th , 26th June
Support Person for the Implementation of Children First	68	yes	Commencing 25th July
Social Work Team Leaders	10	no	Mid July
Social Workers	18	no	Mid July
Information Officer for Child Care	31	no	Mid July
House Parents	24	yes	Early July
Assistant House Parents	49	yes	3rd July, 4th July, 11th July, 12th July, 17th July, 18th July
Public Health Nurse	1	no	Early July
Development Officer for Best Health for Children	18	no	August
Aftercare and Stepdown Worker	71	no	July /August
Community Child Care Worker	69	no	End July
Childminders' Advisory Officers	42	no	End July
Family Support Workers	42	no	August

TOTAL	489		
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Transfer of CWO Service for Asylum Seekers to 77 Upper Gardiner Street

The Community Welfare Service for Asylum Seekers has been located at 79-83 Lr Mount Street, Dublin 2, since October, 1998 as part of the “One-Stop Shop” service.

With the increase in the numbers seeking asylum in this country, and changes in legislation introduced in October, 2000, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform have greatly expanded the number of staff employed in this area (i.e. Legal Services Staff, Appeals Staff, and a new “Fingerprinting Service”).

Consequently, the Office of Public Works sourced alternative accommodation for the Community Welfare Service, to free up space at Mount Street. The Office of Public Works sourced accommodation at 77 Upper Gardiner Street (formerly “Tucks”), which was viewed and considered suitable to provide a Community Welfare Service to Asylum Seekers. This premises is being renovated to provide this service, in conjunction with the management and staff. It is anticipated that the transfer of services will take place within the next 3 months.

Orthodontic Services

Pending the advertising of the post of Consultant Orthodontist in our Board by the Local Appointments Commission, our Board advertised widely in both national and international media, and professional publications, to fill this post in a temporary capacity.

To-date, two applications have been received. One applicant does not possess the necessary qualifications, and the second applicant also appears not be qualified, but further enquiries are being made.

In the meantime, the service continues to be provided by the Regional Orthodontic Unit at St. James Hospital, plus additional sessions provided by an external Orthodontist. Officers from our Board are also in discussion with another Health Board with the objective of acquiring additional sessional input.

To-day, the Local Appointments Commission advertised the permanent Consultant post in our Board.

Interviews have concluded for the post of General Manager, Orthodontics, in our Board, and the appointment of the successful applicant is progressing, with the successful applicant expected to take up duty in July, 2001.

CORRESPONDENCE

Refurbishment of Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors on-call accommodation.

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting correspondence from the Department of Health and Children, outlining the allocation of £126,000 towards the

refurbishment of Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors on-call accommodation, including a £10,000 allocation in respect of St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park.

Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2001.

I have circulated with agenda papers for this meeting, correspondence from the Department of Health and Children advising of the enactment of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2001, with effect from 5th June, 2001.

Section 2 of this new Act amends the Tobacco (Health Promotion and Protection) Act, 1988 (No 24 of 1998) and raises the age limit at which tobacco products can legally be sold to young persons from sixteen years to eighteen years. This is in line with a recommendation of the "Towards a Tobacco Free Society" report launched by the Minister in March, 2000.

Change from oral polio to inactivated polio vaccine

I have circulated this evening copy of correspondence from the Department of Health and Children outlining the proposed introduction of new vaccines into the Childhood Immunisation Programme (four and five component vaccines including Inactive Polio Vaccine – IPV), from 16th July, 2001.

GP Out of Hours Service, Balbriggan

Following recent adverse press reports in relation to GP Services in the Balbriggan area, I have circulated a progress report, (copy filed with official minute) outlining the current status of the GP Out of Hours Service in the Balbriggan area.

Dental Health Awards

I have circulated this evening correspondence from the Dental Health Foundation, Ireland, in relation to the Childrens Dental Health Awards.

These awards target children who, in particular, are at risk of dental decay. It is organised by our Board, ERHA and the Dental Health Foundation, Ireland.

An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D., will present children in the winning school (Scoil Ide, Girls National School, Cromcastle Green, Kilmore Road West, Dublin 5), with achievement awards at a ceremony on Friday 22nd June, at 11.00 am

Following discussions on the matters in the Chief Executive's report, to which Cllr O'Donovan, Cllr. Murray, Dr Fitzpatrick, Cllr Burke, Cllr Heney, Dr O'Connell, Dr Reilly, Cllr Callely and Cllr Devitt contributed, and to which the Chief Executive and Mr Murphy responded, the report was noted. It was agreed to further update the Board on the evaluation of the GP Out-of Hours service and on the examination of complaints received.

54/2001

**TEENAGE PARENTING – JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY,
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

It was agreed to refer Report No 18/2001, (copy filed with official minute), to the Standing Committee for Community Services and Continuing Care.

55/2001

CHILDREN FIRST – CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

It was agreed to refer Report No 19/2001, (copy filed with official minute), to Standing Committee for Community Services and Continuing Care.

56/2001

IMMUNISATION SERVICES AND INFECTION CONTROL

It was agreed to refer report No 20/2001 (copy filed with official minute), to the Standing Committee for Acute Hospitals and Primary Care.

57/2001.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

(i) *Community Services and Continuing Care Committee*

On a proposal by Ald Callely, seconded by Cllr Devitt, the report from the Community Services and Continuing Care was agreed.

The following matters were dealt with in the report

1. It was agreed to bring the service report on addiction services back to members at a future date to include details in relation to alcohol services.
2. Members noted the following reports:
 - *F.S.A.I. - Annual Report 1999 - Report No. 10/2001*
 - *Northern Area Health Board - F.S.A.I. Act Sec. 48(8) Service Contracts - Annual Report.*
3. It was agreed to defer the report - *Eastern Regional Area Health Boards - Health (Amendment) Act 1996 - Hepatitis C - Information Booklet on Primary Care Services for Persons with Hepatitis C* - to the next meeting.

(ii) *Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee*

On a proposal by Mr McGuire, seconded by Cllr Devitt, the report from the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee was agreed.

The following issues were dealt with in the report

1. REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CENTRE – ANNUAL REPORT 1999. REPORT NO. 16/2001

Members noted and supported this report

2. CANCER SERVICES – REPORT NO. 17/2001

Members noted and support this report.

3. REPORT ON THE MEDICAL CARD SERVICE

Members noted the report.

Following discussions to which Ald Callely, Dr Laffoy, Dr Reilly, contributed, it was agreed to bring a report on the Cervical Cancer Screening Service at the Mater Hospital to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Acute Hospitals and Primary Care.

58/2001

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 9.1** The following motion was proposed by Cllr M. O'Donovan and seconded by Cllr. Devitt, and agreed

“That Officers of the Board seek a meeting with officials of the Housing Department Fingal Co. Council to examine whether Northern Area Health Board and Fingal County Council might collaborate in the provision of special accommodation for the elderly at Blanchardstown Village”.

- 9.2** The following motion was proposed by Cllr O'Donovan, seconded by Cllr. Devitt.

“That the Northern Area Health Board enter into discussions with the Developers of the Pelletstown Project and also the Planning Officials in Dublin Corporation with the view to having a state of the art Health Centre built on this Development”.

Following discussion to which Cllr Burke, Dr Reilly, Cllr O'Donovan contributed and to which the Chief Executive and Asst Chief Executive replied, the motion was agreed.

- 9.3** The motion in the name of Deputy Shortall, was, in her absence, not moved.

- 9.4** The following motion was proposed by Cllr. O'Donovan and seconded by Cllr Devitt.

“That the Chief Executive Officer report on progress towards the implementation of the pilot scheme to cut orthodontic waiting lists through the use of private sector orthodontists.

Following discussion to which Dr Reilly, Cllr Callely, Cllr Burke, Dr O'Connell, and Cllr Heney contributed, and to which the Chief Executive, replied, the motion was agreed. The Chief Executive agreed to update the members on progress at the next monthly Board Meeting.

- 9.5** The motion in the name of Dep Shorthall, was, in her absence, not moved

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm

Correct:

**M. WINDLE,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHAIRMAN